MUTINY

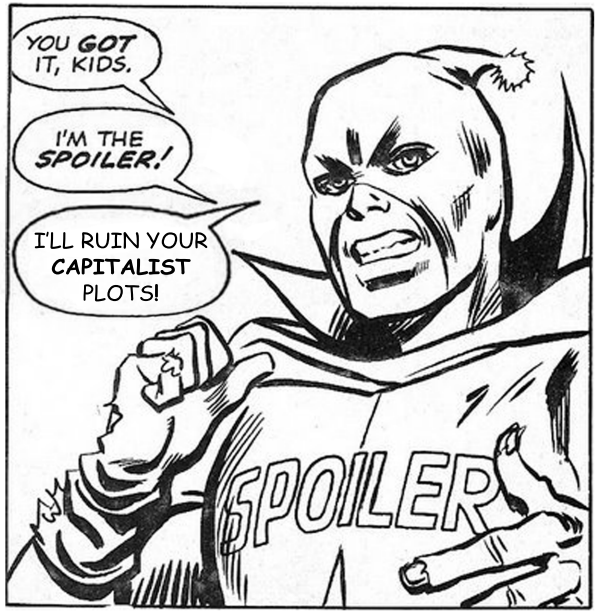
A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS

#36 MARCH 2009

Something Fishy on the Border:
Drivetrain Executives rip off Workers

FREE ZINE!

Governments Can't Solve Climate Change:
only movements can



Silently Suffering:
on Language and the Stolen Generation

Undies and Overlords

plus News, Reviews, Letters and more

April 2009 will be ***Mutiny's* third birthday!**

We think that three years of continuous monthly publication is a good excuse for a party. Please join us in celebrations: there will be food, drink, copies of back issues & some extra suprises.

Friday April 17, 6.30pm, Black Rose Books, 22 Enmore Rd, Newtown.

If you would like to give us a birthday present, reams of A4 paper, postage stamps & money to help pay our printing debt are all very welcome. And of course, as always, contributions for the zine.

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brief news

Greece

On February 24, fascists attacked the Immigrants' Social Center in Exarcheia with a hand-grenade.

There were two protest marches in Athens against this attack. On the second, larger, demonstration, on March 4, protesters broke into the offices of Golden Dawn the neo-nazi para-state organisation responsible for numerous assassination attempts against immigrants, anarchists and the left, as well as a campaign of terror against radical organisations. The offices were torched to the ground.

After a series of strikes and occupations, PEKOP, the autonomous union of cleaners, won their demand that the public transport company break their contract with the cleaning company OIKMET and employ cleaners directly. In December, OIKMET attacked the union's general secretary, K. Kouneva, with sulphuric acid, as retaliation for her organising. Kouneva is recovering but is still in hospital .

Guadeloupe, Martinque: general strikes

A general strike was launched in Guadeloupe, in the French Caribbean, on January 20 over low wages and the high cost of living. It was launched by the Collective against Exploitation (LKP), a collective of 48 cultural and social associations, left nationalist groups and trade unions, dominated by the UGTG (General Union of Guadeloupe Workers).

Hundreds of police and gendarmes were been deployed from France to support local security forces, and dozens of protesters were arrested.

On Saturday February 14 thousands of workers marched through the town of Le Moule chanting "Guadeloupe is ours, it's not theirs." They were referring to the "Bekes," the white minority which holds economic power on an island where most of the half million residents are descendants of African slaves.

On February 18 union leader Jacques Bino was shot dead by rioting youths at a barricade in Guadeloupe's main city, Pointe-a-Pitre.

The strike ended on March 7, after 44 days, when most of the strikers' demands were met. The LKP collective signed a deal with officials and business owners to raise workers' pay and lower the cost of basic goods. The wages of the lowest-paid workers will be supplemented with a 200-euro monthly payment. LKP leader Elie Domota warned that unions would resume the strike if the government or businesses reneged on their promises.

Meanwhile, the neighbouring French island of Martinique began its own general strike. Twelve trade unions launched a general strike call February 5 against the decrease in purchasing power, which has especially affected the 70,000 people on the island living below the poverty line. On February 9, 25,000 people marched in the capital Fort-de-France. Negotiations are continuing.

Edited from libcom.org

Ukraine: factory occupation

Workers occupied the Kherson Farm Machinery Plant in the Ukraine after the owner, who owed them half a year of wages, planned to close down the plant and sell the machinery.

On February 2, the workers elected a Workers' Council as the existing union had not been able to defend their rights in previous conflicts. They occupied their factory demanding payment of back wages, seizure of the owner's accounts, nationalisation of the plant under worker control, and government-guaranteed orders of the factory's products.

Ukraine has been hit hard by the economic crisis, not only through job losses but

because the government is increasing fees for everything from utilities to public transit and even trying to introduce fees for visiting the cemetery (in Kyiv).

On March 2, 300 workers from the Kherson plant occupied the first floor of the local government offices. Following this occupation the country's premier, Yulia Timoshenko, announced the preparation of a bill on nationalization of "ineffectively working" plants and promised to give 12 million hryvnias for the payment of wage arrears at the plant. The plant will be nationalised if the owner attempts to fire workers or close the plant.

Japan: education action

Students and activists have been spurred into action because Japan's national student loans body has recently started targeting people who are in arrears with their student loans by blacklisting them on the personal credit data agency.

On January 25, the Association of Blacklisted Students (burakkurisuto no kai) organised a demonstration in Kyoto demanding that the Blacklisting Plan is dumped and University education is free. The next day, members of the Tokyo Association of Blacklisted Students lodged an letter with the Tokyo headquarter of the student loans body, the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), demanding the cancellation of the Blacklisting Plan and the provision of full scholarships.

As education becomes more commercialised, JASSO has put more students in debt by increasing the program of interest-bearing student loans; the number of debtors has risen from 100,000 in 1999 to 700,000 in 2009, while the progamme of non-interest loans has adopted 350,000 debtors per year for the same period.

The Tokyo blacklisted collective will link up with the International Students Movements' global week of action, Reclaim your Education, in April 2009.

see: http://www.edu-factory.org

Tasmania: forest blockades

The long running Camp Floz is situated in old growth forest in the Upper Florentine, about 100km from Hobart. The blockade was busted on January 12 by around 60 police, so that Forestry Tasmania could extend the road further into the logging coup.

In the two weeks following the bust, there were actions almost every day that successfully stopped work, including several lock-ons and three community walk-in days. On January 23, all the machinery was pulled out, and no work has been done on the site since. However Forestry workers have been walking through every day. Due to a few incidents, we now follow them through with a video camera, to ensure the safety of tree-sitters and other crew.

Since work stopped, the blockade has been re-established. There is a new tree-sit, several new road blocking structures attached to the sits, two new dragons (old cars blocking the road for locking onto) and a new tunnel under the road.

It is unknown when work will resume, but it is planned that half of the 50 hectare coup will be logged this year. The number of people at camp has begun to drop and is expected to drop further as we head towards the colder months. More people are needed.

For more information on the campaign to save Tassie's old growth, visit www.stillwildstillthreatened.org

Undies and Overlords

How the Bonds workers are just the latest victims of a centuries old class struggle.

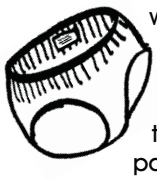
In light of the recent escalation in the finical crisis and in particular the closing of the Bonds factories, I would like to offer my thoughts on events and, hopefully, an anarchist perspective on what can be done. Whilst ultimately, we would argue that the workers best interests lie in the overthrow of capitalism in favour of stateless libertarian socialism, or anarchism, it is also important that we are not seen as irrelevant and that we can offer solutions to problems faced in the here and now.

Firstly let's be clear about one thing, downturns like these are an inherent part of the capitalist system. True, some business types may also be finding the situation tough just now, yet they will go on defending the system, despite all its inadequacies and injustices, because they know ultimately it is they as the exploiters who benefit from it and us as the exploited who suffer. So don't listen to any bullshit from those who tell you that job losses, low pay, etc are just the way the world is. Remember that it's an invented system and if companies have to compete with cheap imports it's because those at the top wanted markets opened up so they could faster line their own pockets. Even during the last up cycle, wage rises didn't keep pace with rent rises, house prices, or the runaway cost of petrol and public transport, and workers were forced to spend more and more of their waking lives at work simply in order to make ends meet.

Now in this downturn how do we see the bosses behave? While maybe a few bosses in smaller firms have tried cutting hours and even freezing their own pay, they are the exception rather than the rule. The majority of capitalists are using this crisis, as they use every excuse handed to them, as a way to further their own class interests. In Bonds we see a textbook example of the workings of modern capitalism with company executives, massively and shamelessly, increasing their own pay before using the downturn as an excuse to speed up the replacement of skilled manual workers with cheaper Chinese labour – most likely teenage girls working 12 hour days in sweatshops. Now don't get me wrong, as a socialist I could really enjoy watching the Chinese Communist Party take over the world's means of production, while western capitalists trip over each other in the rush to help them do so, if only I trusted them to create anything approaching true socialism.

Other companies have been taking the excuse to lay workers off now, before the new IR laws come into effect in July, becuase under Workchoices, workers laid off for 'Operational Reasons' are not entitled to claim unfair dismissal. Workers with claims against the company for injuries or medical conditions caused by work, mysteriously find themselves amongst those made redundant alongside those the boss finds too argumentative and anyone else the company want an excuse to be rid of.

So what can be done? Well in the specific case of the Bonds workers they have two large advantages on their side. Firstly they are still at work and I for one would urge them to follow the example of the occupied factories movement in Argentina, and lock the bosses out while they still can. This would still leave the twin problems of finding suppliers and people to buy their goods. The first question I cannot answer. As for the second, this is



where their other major advantage comes into play. Unlike, for instance, workers making aircraft parts, Bonds workers make goods that can be sold directly to the general public. So, providing they can find suppliers and tha they have the will, strength of numbers and public support to hold out when the police are sent in, occupied production facilities, removed of a class of parasitic scum growing fat on the fruits of their labour, should be viable.

As times get harder – and all the evidence points to things going that way – we need to help foster a spirit of resistance similar to the one which existed in working-class communities in the 1930's. Such as, for instance, anti-eviction riots when whole neighbourhoods would pull together to prevent families being kicked out of their homes, or if the bailiffs got them out, would simply move them straight back in at the earliest opportunity.

As we can see, in spite of all the rhetoric about us all being in this together, the bosses are already using the global financial crisis to ratchet up their class war against the workers. In order to repel their attacks we must build militant resistance in both our workplaces and communities.

By Captain Swing

Something Fishy on the Border: Drivetrain executives rip off workers.

On February 20th around 400 workers were sacked from Drivetrain International (DSI), a gearbox manufacturer in Lavington (Albury) on the border of NSW and Victoria. They were sacked without pay or entitlements, as management proceeds to strip the factory of an estimated $17 million in assets. 17 workers in the Springvale plant were also sacked. Some of the workers at Drivetrain have been there for 30 years. The factory is the only manufacturer of gear boxes in Australia and was, until the recent sackings, the largest Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) shop in the state.

The administrator has announced that the payment of financial creditors comes before giving workers their due entitlements. DSI is insolvent owing the banks $40–$50 million and trade suppliers about $20 Million. Entitlements owed to all workers amount to $25 million and won't be paid.

The corporation has divided the workers, offering 131 continued employment from March 9th, without specifying who they would be till a meeting on the February 25th in which workers received envelopes stating who was to be offered employment to 'wind up the factory' over an 8 week period. Management and executive staff however have been retained on full wages.

The Federal Government will provide assistance for the workers through the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS), but it will not cover all of the $25 million they are owed.

When the receivers met with the workers in Springvale on the 16th of February they advised the workers that there are 2 serious parties interested in buying the business. They announced that both parties are interested in purchasing the intellectual property and the Tech Centre in Springvale. However, the buyers are not interested in the Albury plant. On the February 20th meeting at Springvale, Michael Turner (the CEO) stated that there would still be at least another 2 years of production in Albury until the localization programs kick in overseas.

Workers speaking with members of the Australian section of the International Workers Association (IWA) stated, "During the meeting at Springvale on Friday 20th one of the workers asked Michael Turner if he lost his house. He replied that he lost $380K and the Nathan Watts and Allan Morris each lost $200k. He also mentioned that Dale Linney lost $1 million."

One of the workers commented, "What really pisses me off is we have workers who will lose up to $100,000 in entitlements while Turner, Morris, Watts, Wirz, Gilcrist, Moery & Clare will only lose 25% of their investment in DSI. Turner announced to us that he will lose $380,000 Morris, Watts & Wirz will lose $200,000. He did not mention the others. So these cashed up directors who wasted money like they were printing it will still get 75% of their investment back from the sale of DSI."

The worker went on to say "We were told that the plans for the buyers for the Albury plant are not good. Both potential buyers want the intellectual property only."

Rumour from another worker is that "DSI purchased a brand new Ford Falcon to install a 6 Speed Rear Wheel Drive Automatic Transmission into it and then try to convince Ford Australia to purchase the DSI 6 Speeds Transmission. After Ford where not interested the car was used as a pool car for a while and then just disappeared from the workshop and from the books. This type of info needs to be leaked out and the administrators need to look deeper into it to see where the root for all of DSI's problems is."

The Executives have only lost small amounts considering the amount of money invested in 2006. The corporation and it's directors should not be able to gamble the workers entitlements and then just turn around and say, "your fired all the money is gone".

This raises the question that should be asked of John Lindholm and George Georges, being for confirmation that the Executives will be receiving 75% of their investments back from either the sale or the liquidation of the business.

Another angry worker put forward what is the opinion of many, "When a company goes into administration, the workers, the administrator and government are the first in line creditors, then should follow other creditors and last of all share holders. How did the DSI Executives manage to get money from the sale back for their investments above the monies being owed to workers in pay and entitlements? This did not happen when ION went under. It must have something got to do with the previous government introducing GEERS."

Dave Error, ASF-IWA

Mass Sackings around the world.

USA: 651,000 workers were fired in February

Japan: 85,012 temp workers were laid off from October last year to this March. There have been unemployed workers camps established in both Osaka and Tokyo, that provide practical support and solidarity.

Holland: 250,000 workers are expected to lose jobs throughout 2009.

Germany: Opal, a car manufacturer, has just threatened to sack 11,000 workers. There's a big rally planned on March 28th around the theme 'We won't pay for their crisis'.

South Korea: At least 128,000 people were unemployed in February, the highest monthly figure in the last decade.

General Motors announced it would sack 47000 workers worldwide this year as part of it's attempt to receive a financial bailout from the US government.

governments can't solve climate change: only movements can

An open letter to Climate Summit participants

The climate action summit was held in Canberra from January 29 - February 2 (www.climatesummit.org.au), aiming to form a national network of climate-change activists and groups. There were about 500 people from over 150 groups: some from established ones like Beyond Zero Emissions and Rising Tide, but most from 'climate action' groups formed recently in many different suburbs, cities and towns.

Before the summit, many different campaigns, tactics and positions were proposed which this letter was written in response to. We wanted to share our concerns in accessible ways with community groups over the current direction of climate change politics, and ideas for how we could act differently. Although many of the specific details of the proposals we were referring to have been abandoned, rejected or modified we feel that the general arguments of the letter are still very relevant.

On the last day of the summit, there were good meetings on 'climate justice' and connecting climate change to working class politics. Discussions about 'green capitalism', opposing market mechanisms and being part of a globally-linked, anti-capitalist climate justice movement are continuing. If you're interested you can get in touch by e-mailing: ***climatejusticetalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com****.*

We are deeply concerned with, and critical of, the direction of the politics of the campaign proposals submitted to the Climate Summit so far. They advocate top-down, government-led solutions to climate change. Ideas range from calls for 'government leadership' and a 'green economy' to the very scary concept of a 'wartime mobilisation' and 'declaration of climate emergency'. We feel support for top-down, government-controlled climate 'solutions' sits in contradiction with the aim to help build a democratic climate justice movement in Australia.

Given, for instance, the failure of repeated international negotiations between states, most recently at Bali and Poznan; the target of 5% reductions set in Australia by the Labor Party in December; and the power of international capital in influencing government policies; it seems to us these approaches have little to no chance of success.

If the proposals are adopted, there's a good chance they will help lend support to a wide array of state and capitalist strategies. Under the public face of 'responding to climate change', these will reduce control over our own lives and significantly increase already massive social divisions. They will give greater power to the rich and attack the working class and the poor. Such approaches include a more authoritarian state, price rises of food, fuel and other essential goods, the implementation of carbon taxes and trading, and the land appropriation of Indigenous people.

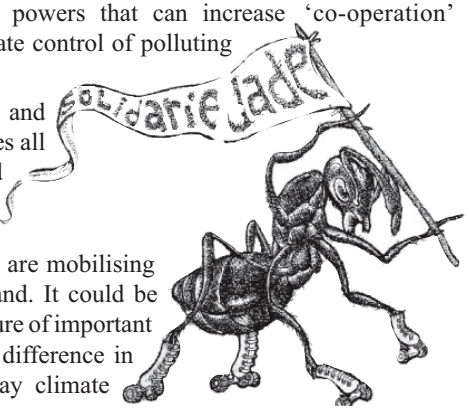
We are wary of building 'unity' in the climate justice movement by agreeing to emissions reductions targets and however-many parts per million. For us, this is a false unity, when the strategies and solutions that are being put forward could dramatically curtail the dignities and civil rights of people across this continent, and the rights of peoples across the globe.

Instead, we believe that our best chance lies in supporting the struggles of oppressed people, workers and participatory movements from below. Movements have the ability to be infectious. They have changed the world before - and can do so again.

There's potential for a climate justice movement to follow in this tradition. But this will only happen if we trust people, not governments that have a long history of oppression and violence.

Across Canberra, at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, people are currently meeting in a convergence against the Northern Territory Intervention and for justice for Aboriginal people. For Labor and Liberal politicians alike, the NT intervention, which is stripping away control of lives and land, is what an 'Emergency Response' is. It's hardly legislation that can drastically reduce emissions and save the planet.

Emergency powers on climate change are not powers that can increase 'co-operation' on the issue; they are powers that will increase state control of polluting infrastructure and of our lives.



2008 saw, in over 30 countries, massive protests and direct actions around increasing food and fuel prices all over the world. In China, the State reports around 50,000 protests annually on pollution related issues, which have forced industrial factories to close. In South America, indigenous communities are mobilising strongly around environmental attacks on their land. It could be these kind of actions, sometimes leading to the closure of important greenhouse-related infrastructure, that makes the difference in preventing temperature rises that lead to runaway climate change.

People around the world are not sitting back quietly, politely asking the state for results and putting up with environmental and economic injustice. We should try and work with them: their struggles are ours too.

By Tim Briedis and Holly Creenaune. We'd love to talk more about these ideas: tbriedis@hotmail.com and hollycreenaune@gmail.com

For more reading around these themes, please look at:

'The Movement is Dead, Long live the Movement from Turbulence newspaper.

Available at

http://turbulence.org.uk/turbulence-4/the-movement-is-dead-long-live-the-movement/

'A New Weather Front' from Turbulence newspaper

Available at **http://turbulence.org.uk/turbulence-1/a-new-weather-front/**

'Energy Crisis (among others) in the Air' from The Commoner No13

Available at **http://www.commoner.org.uk/N13/00-Introduction.pdf**

'Dynamics of a Songful Resistance' from the Commoner No13

Available at **http://www.commoner.org.uk/N13/13-Roa_Avendano_Toloza.pdf**

'Climate Camp hijacked by a hardcore of liberals' from Shift Magazine

Available at **http://shiftmag.co.uk/?p=35**

The heartbreaking scene of the children's removal from their mother in the film version of Doris Pilkington Garimara's, *Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence*, shows the white government agent, Constable Riggs, tearing the children from their mother's arms. He insists that he is not the one responsible for this action. Maude, the girls' mother, helplessly repeats, "No, these my girls, mine". Powerful over all is the paper that the agent holds aloft. That paper, with its copy of the written words of the Protector of Aborigines, A. O. Neville, holds the position of power in the scene. That paper, those words can change people's lives irrevocably – "I've got the paper, Maude; you've got no say in it," Riggs tells her.

Whilst not every stolen child was taken in quite that same way, the outcome was almost always the same. The whitefella's laws held sway over the concerns of Aboriginal parents and their children. They had no say. What followed was a trauma that resonated throughout the lives of those parents and children, brothers and sisters reaching down to affect their grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In her book *The Silence: How Tragedy Shapes Talk*, Ruth Wajnryb explores the topic of silence in its connection to survivors of the Holocaust and their children. She learns, throughout the course of her research, that silence is the most common response for people who have experienced trauma. There are often no words to express the horror of what a survivor has experienced. Our word 'unspeakable' conveys something of the gravity of an event for which the hearer has no understanding. Wajnryb offers the example of the Stolen Generations as an incidence of trauma where the victims were silenced and responded with silence.

Silence and Denial

Every Australian state had its Aborigines Protection Board that sought "to provide for the custody, maintenance and education of Aboriginal children". In the early 1900's groups of Aboriginal parents attempted to speak out against this treatment to local Members of Parliament and to the courts. The strength they may have felt in acting collectively was soon eradicated by The Board with the reply: "Each case will be dealt with on its own merits." The likelihood that an individual might stand up to defend their rights and those of their children in the court was slender at best. In this instance, silencing was enforced by frightening the complainants away from the court.

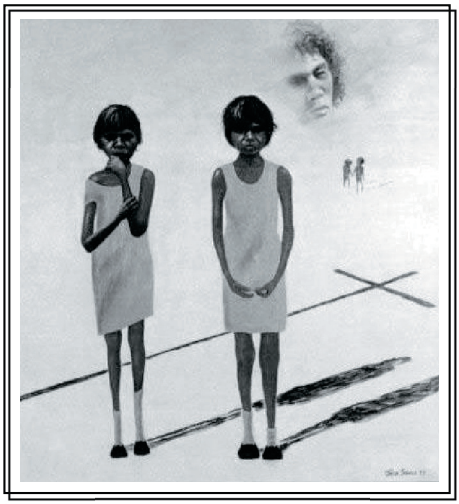
The act of silencing was continued by later governments and the media through the denial that such atrocities had taken place or that they had taken place on such a scale as was later outlined by the *Bringing Them Home Report of 1997*. Even on the day the Report was tabled in Parliament the then Prime Minister, John Howard referred to the pain that "many of the people who were affected by those practices might continue to suffer". He chose to say 'many' not all, as though it is important to point out that some may have come through the process entirely unscathed. And he diminishes the experience of those victims

by suggesting they only 'might' continue to suffer. Later he refers to Australia's treatment of Indigenous peoples as a blemish on the country's history; conjuring the image of a perfect historical complexion with but one slight spot.

The silence enacted by one generation still lives in denial decades later. Far too many Australians are still unable to access to their own history and identity. Silence and denial still affect the Stolen Generations.

Silent Witnesses

It is the commonly held belief that whilst these children were being removed from their families the public at large saw no wrong in what was being done. There was not consensus during the 1930's when so many of these forced removals were taking place all over Australia. Mary Bennet, a teacher at the Mt. Margaret Mission in Western Australia from 1932 and a prominent feminist, who described the policy of forced removal as "the official smashing of family life". In fact, there was so much dissent on the part of Australian feminists that a Royal Commission was established in the mid '30s to deal with their claims. The Royal Commissioner, a Mr. Moseley, referred to the accounts they brought from Aboriginal women whose children had been taken as "hearsay". In this instance the power of the legal system intersects with the power of one male voice to silence the voices of women black and white.



There were, of course, many white Australians who helped to implement these policies. Others simply stood by and let it happen. In *Trauma and Recovery*, Judith Herman describes this difficult relationship between the perpetrator of traumatic events and one who views it: "when the traumatic events are of human design, those who bear witness are caught in the conflict between victim and perpetrator. It is morally impossible to remain neutral in the conflict."

The Silence of those who were Taken and Taken from

Language was a significant area of subjugation among Aboriginal people caught up in the waves of removals that have come to be seen by many as assimilation. People who wrote and enforced the laws of compulsory removal spoke the dominant language, English. Paralysing mortification and dread of confronting the powerful white law makers and enforcers virtually eliminated spoken recourse in the face of this injustice. Lack of a common language did the rest.

The role of gender in this context is a rather crude one. Neither modern nor post modern feminism adequately describe the imbalance between black women and white men in Australian society of the 19th and 20th centuries. That relationship is better explained by Judith Herman in her study of post-traumatic stress disorders. She credits the feminist wave

of the 70s as revealing the extent of trauma in the lives of women in domestic situations. If, as she says, the domestic lives of women were effectively invisible, the relations between white men and Aboriginal women were not acknowledged and would not have been considered an issue of importance. Many of the "half caste" children to be removed were the consequence of rape and this violence was perpetuated when these children were wrested from their mothers. Through the twin workings of shame and the notion of domestic privacy, silence surrounded the origins of many children of the Stolen Generation.

The memories of stolen children were not given credibility. Indeed, due to the fact that many children were removed at a very early age, few memories existed. Sid Graham, a uniting church minister from South Australia and a member of the Stolen Generation, had a distant relationship with his mother even before his removal at the age of nine. His story is brought to light in *Why Me?*, a movie made by Ronin Films about the work of the organisation Link-Up. Link-Up's search revealed to Sid that his first removal was at the age of one month and he had only spent three or four years with his family in the first nine years of his life. The courts could not recognise an infant's cry of pain and abandonment. The deniers still say that memories of removal are not credible, that the stories do not hold enough fact to merit historical acceptance. Herman writes: "The conflict between the will to deny horrible events and the will to proclaim them aloud is the central dialectic of psychological trauma. People who have survived atrocities often tell their stories in a highly emotional, contradictory, and fragmented manner which undermines their credibility."

Homes Are Sought For These Children

A GROUP OF TINY HALF-CASTE AND QUADROON CHILDREN at the Darwin half-caste home. The Minister for the Interior (Mr Perkins) recently appealed to charitable organisations in Melbourne and Sydney to find homes for the children and rescue them from becoming outcasts.

I like the little girl in Centre of group, but if taken by anyone else away of the others I'm sad do, as long as they are taken

Kevin Stack, whose daughters were removed from him at an early age, repeatedly tried to address this matter with the authorities. His story and that of his daughters is also told in *Why Me?* Kevin's frequent attempts to convince the Welfare Board of Western Australia were unsuccessful. He expressed his frustration regarding these attempts at communicating with the government using the phrase, "you got no say, you got no say". With those words, the very words used in that dramatic scene from *Rabbit Proof Fence*, and with obvious emotion he describes the smothering of speech, questions, grief and understanding.

Kevin's children, like so many stolen ones, were told they had been given away. In such circumstances, no Aboriginal parent would have been free to refuse. *Giving a child away* would most certainly have occurred under coercion.

Historian Henry Reynolds made the uncovering of these events the focus of his research and expresses his personal journey in *Why Weren't We Told?* That question still resonates as the details of the suffering of Australia's Indigenous people are still surfacing and are not yet widely taught or understood. In his Afterword to *The Stolen Children* he points out that the rape and abuse of women and the removal of children is a common feature of invasion. So, too, is silence a common feature of suffering.

I'd like to elaborate more on the decision of SHAC not to contest the court order. Whilst it is true that potential court fees (and we are talking about $20,000) played a part in the SHAC's collective decision it was not the only factor. The more pressing factor was that SHAC would not have time to build the case that it needed to successfully challenge the court order. As a result of the following facts:

- SHAC was taken to court on the second last day of court for the year, Monday 22nd December, and was only given four days in which to find a lawyer. We couldn't. (point of note here, maybe the first things that any future public squatting campaign should do is to have regular contact with a lawyer versed in property law who can act in court cases)

- The judge on the Monday gave the impression to all who attended that he would rule in favour of the Uni and it was only because we didn't have representation that he gave an adjournment until the 5th of Jan, to allow us the chance to get further legal advice.

- We were informed by the lawyers representing us that they were not versed in this part of property law and therefore the court case would only be half as good as it could be. We were also informed that we would have to build the evidence ourselves from transcripts of meetings and conversations and letters and get these signed and authorised by the court in four days over Christmas. (point of note, keep properly documented notes as the place develops in case of any future court action)

- We were told the chances of successfully challenging were 50-50 for getting an adjournment for a month or so.

- As we felt support was waning already, we'd called two eviction rallies with diminishing numbers and people were getting quite tired and worn out, there was the thought that a court order would give us a definite date to work towards and ease our minds of the thought of the 'looming eviction.'

So with all these in mind the SHAC collective made a decision not to contest the court hearing as our chances of winning a stay weren't that great and we thought we could control the eviction strategy and build up for resistance better with a date definitely on the horizon. As events turned out SHAC were not able to set the date for the eviction like we'd hoped and had been led to believe by the sheriff's office and we were evicted at 6 in the morning. We still got some of the media we hoped but due to the early hours the support wasn't there. Overall it was definitely a learning experience and members from the group are looking at other direct housing actions armed with more knowledge on successful media and community support.

-Paradigm

Dear Syzygy/Mutineers,

I too had some trouble working out exactly what I was reading when I stumbled across a copy of the new and super exciting Wai Quarterly, because as you said, the title on the first page is small and hard to read. This made me smile though, and I'm not sure that it needs to be changed. I found myself imagining the tiny title reflected a politics of building a movement as distinct from building a brand.

Love you long time,

Alex

Also, I like your zine. Thank you.

Dear Mutiny Zine Editors,

The last issue of 'Mutiny' which focused a lot on Israel's massacre in Gaza was impressively relevant, covering a few angles that don't otherwise come up in discussion around this issue. That said, i would like to raise an issue about Liz and Ben's half of the debate on the Palestinian nationalism question.

My issue is with Liz and Ben's critique being focused against some sort of 'anarchist' position on the issue of Palestinian nationalism. This

reference to anarchism seemed disingenuous and unnecessary, especially if we consider that the people involved in this debate are more likely to refer to themselves as 'autonomous Marxists' than anarchists. I'm not saying that an anarchist zine should not have anything that is critical of anarchism - articles that provoke thought and discussion about our anarchist politics, tactics and strategies are absolutely the purpose of this publication.

However, this particular article, with its rather difficult language and line of argument (although Dave's half was comparatively easy to take in) does nothing but refer to an abstract "anarchist analysis of the attack on Gaza". I think we'd find that anarchists are unlikely to try and offer a cover-all solution to this issue (unlike most vanguardist socialist groups). In fact, i believe that my position on this recent attack on Gaza is more in line with Liz and Ben, although i do appreciate Dave raising the difficult question of whether we should be supporting national(ist) liberation struggles at all.

I don't have a singular position on this issue and many anarchists i talked to about it are happy to admit their confusion at the complexity of it all. If Liz and Ben were going to be countering the argument of a specific anarchist then they should have referred to who it was and what article they read. [eds: they did say that they were referring to articles from the libcom website.] I think the editors of this anarchist publication should have asked them to explain themselves: i think the article would have held up just fine with the reference to anarchism left out.

cheers,

SourDough

Reviews

City of Ember

(book by Jeanne DuPrau & film)

City of Ember is a tale set in the turmoil of an institutionalised society facing the imminent end of the resources that sustain it. The mechanics of the plot are rather straight forward. The protagonists have a fresh perspective in a society that actively discourages any fresh perspective, they act to overcome this homogeneity, developing towards their goal. Growing grander from those helpful around them and being hindered by those who oppose them.

This tale uses a rich sense of irony to really leave a mark on the audience. The godhead of the believers are the "Builders" - whom we are introduced to at the beginning as the white, mostly male engineers and architects who set up Ember to absolve themselves of the historic blame for destroying the surface planet with war. The believers hold hands and sing songs about how the Builders will come soon and save the people of Ember from their troubles, whereas we the audience are quite certain that this is complete bullshit.

The icons of authority (especially the mayor – played brilliantly by Bill Murray in the film) are from the very beginning of the book overly protective of their power and in the movie dismayed and corrupt. The book lends more scare to police in

When you see an Australian national flag do you:
A) Want to burn it,
B) Resist the urge to vomit,
C) Feel deeply sad and disappointed at the state of the world,
D) All of the above.
Or E)...?

Please contribute to "Burn It", a compilation zine, sharing people's experiences of the Australian national flag. Please feel free to send in your thoughts, drawings, ideas, essays, pictures, experiences and/or action plans for facing this increasingly everyday ill.
I want to know how it makes you feel and why. I don't want to feel lonely anymore, being angry when it feels like everyone else is proud. I want to share practical ideas for an active Australian national flag reduction scheme. Starting today.

Please send me stuff ASAP, or by the end of March. growyaown@gmail.com
Or 348 Abercrombie St, Darlington, 2008

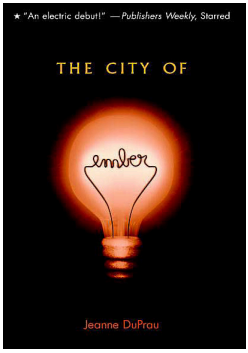
Ember, whereas the movie portrays them as background thugs and only the mayor's assistant has a speaking part.

It was good to see that the book had lot's of capable smart womyn but it sucked that in the movie some of these characters were turned into men. There was also a complete lack of queer characters and weak race politics.

We liked how the book and movie showed the process by which the young protagonists came to connect the dots between power, corruption and the excessive consumption of the elite at the expense of others. This becomes really stark in a world with such dwindling resources.

Lina's and Doon's ingenuity, creativity and energy are juxtaposed against the believers who are apathetic (towards the city's problems) and content with with the belief that someone is coming to save the city.

Overall it's a visually captivating film with some good anti-elite sentiments. The book has more depth and is a bit more radical. For the gamers out there, the movie is like watching a 2hr version of the *Fallout 3* tutorial area - Escape the Vault!



Three out of five lightbulbs from us.

Review by
Exploded Cake and Mambutu

Live Working or Die Fighting: How the Working-Class went Global

by Paul Mason (book)

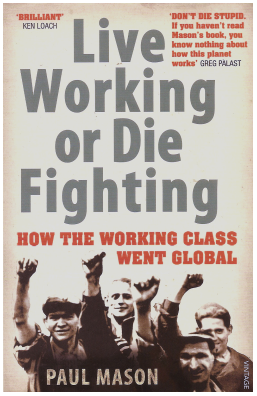
The stated aim of Mason's book is to encourage us to rediscover the history of class struggle. He thinks this important for both workers building new labour movements in the so-called developing world, and for those organising against globalisation in the planet's more powerful economies. We're not so much supposed to relive the past, but to observe the trajectories of previous struggles to have some idea of what to expect, and to know that what we're trying to do has been done before.

Mason's contention is that globalisation has caused the shift of much of industrial labour from Europe, America, and the Pacific to places in the 'developing world'. Previously oral tradition had ensured the passing-on of the history of struggle in relation to the conditions of a (geographically and industrially) specific workforce. However, with these rapidly growing communities of workers geographically divorced from the industries' previous major centres, they have no idea of the history of how people before them fought against their bosses and the indignity of working for the profit of someone else.

Mason tells these stories with a narrative richness, basing them solidly in the intricacies of people's lives rather than a boring mechanistic view of history through numbers, statistics, and abstractions. For me this is the book's strongest point. For example, trying to get my head around the history of the Bund and its members' clashes with Zionists, both left- and right-wing, was made so much more simpler by Mason immersing me in the daily life of Jewish garment workers in Brzeziny, Poland at the beginning of the 20th Century.

Each chapter pairs an outline of a contemporary struggle with the history of a similar struggle from the past, usually in another corner of the world. While sometimes it feels like Mason overlooks the historical narratives of the communities currently fighting their conditions of exploitation, this is only a minor criticism. His book is not only a useful tool for surviving our own daily lives, but is filled with the beauty of when hope is a living, breathing part of an arsenal against capital.

Review by Navin


'BRILLIANT' KEN LOACH
'DON'T DIE STUPID. If you haven't read Mason's book, you know nothing about how this planet works' GREG PALAST
Live Working or Die Fighting
HOW THE WORKING CLASS WENT GLOBAL
PAUL MASON

This Month:

Captain Swing takes a look at the mass sacking of Pacific Brands/ Bonds workers and considers some appropriate responses.

While Dave Error reports from Albury/ Wodonga, Victoria on another industrial dispute resulting from mass layoffs.

We're all getting a bit tired of attempts to make capitalism `green'. This letter aimed at the movement against climate change looks at why it's an impossible notion and suggests some different priorites.

Mother Hubbard considers how silence as a result of ongoing trauma has been a significant problem in the struggle for justice for the Stolen Generations.

We got some letters! And reviews of `City of Ember' and `Live Working or Die Fighting'.

Plus news from Greece (again), Gaudeloupe, Tasmania, Ukraine, Japan.

And once more, it's our 3rd birthday and we're having a party!

See inside for more details.

Upcoming events!

Black Rose Anarchist Library & Bookshop

22 Enmore Rd, Newtown
www.blackrosebooks.org
open: Thursday & Friday 11-7, Saturday & Sunday 11-5
accessibility: there are three steps at the entrance. The toilet is not easily accessible

Tuesday March 17, 7pm. American zinemaker Dave Roche of On Subbing teams up with local zine makers for an evening of zine readings and vegan snacks.
More info at http://zines.wordpres.com/

Sunday March 29, 6.30pm. Film screening. Matewan: a drama about the events of a coal mine-workers' strike and attempt to unionize in 1920 in Matewan, a small town in the hills of West Virginia. $5 suggested donation

Jura Books

440 Paramatta Rd, Petersham. www.jura.org.au
Open: Wednesday-Friday 2-7, Saturday & Sunday 12-5

The whole month of March is Jura Books Cheap Month!

** 10% to 50% off all stock
** Hundreds of books for a few $$ each

'Illustrations of Freedom' Exhibition

25 Original Art Pieces by Peta Ridgeway and Fern York
Fund-raising for independent activists educating about Sovereignty. The artists will discuss sovereignty, activism and creativity.

Sydney: Wednesday March 18, 6-9pm
Little Fish Gallery, 22 Enmore Rd, Newtown. Exhibition showing until March 23.

Melbourne: Friday March 27, 6-9pm
Loophole Community Art Space, 834A High St, Thornbury. Exhibition showing until the April 2.

Newcastle: Sunday April 19, 6-9pm
Suspension Espresso Cafe, 3 Beaumont St, Hamilton. Exhibition Showing until May 3.

URBAN ORCHARD: a new local swap session!!
DIY Markets, opposite Newtown Station.
Last Sunday of the month, 10-12am

Urban Orchard brings people together to share excess produce from their gardens, and food gleaned from the urban environment. Swap lemons for limes, apples for tomatoes, recipes for gardening tips, on a completely informal and friendly basis.

More info: 0402066460 or produce@alfalfahouse.org